

WOODSIDE HERALD

SERVING SUNNYSIDE-WOODSIDE AND LONG ISLAND CITY

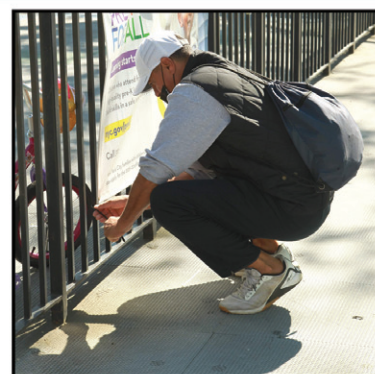
VOL. 88 NO.19

WOODSIDE, L.I.C., N.Y. FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021

FREE

I ❤️ MY PARK DAY

This past Saturday, May 1st, was "I Love my Park Day" across NYC and many neighborhood groups came together to celebrate. One of these was the Friends of Noonan Playground in Sunnyside. The Friends of Noonan were joined by Team O'Leary for Council and the groups spent the morning beautifying the park by cleaning trash, mending fences and gardening to make sure all could enjoy the park.



\$30 SERVICE PACKAGES BUSINESSES

The Sunnyside Shines Business Improvement District, is pleased to announce the launch of the third annual Spa and Salon Fest at 19 participating businesses in Sunnyside, Queens. Spa and Salon Fest will kick off this Friday, March 7th, and will run through Sunday, May 16th. During these days, different personal care businesses are offering a \$30 service deal to highlight their offerings and allow residents to get pampered at a lower cost. Spas, salons, barbershops, and even pet grooming businesses are among the participating businesses. Some of the deals during spa and salon fest include: gel mani and regular pedi; haircut, treatment, and blow dry; semi-permanent lash set, facial treatments, eyebrow threading; mommy/me or daddy/me haircuts; dental scaling for pets (pets need care too!); hot shaves; a one-week membership to the LIC YMCA – and more. See below for a full list of participating businesses! (SEE PAGE 5)

- BLADES BROTHERS BARBER SHOP
- DIVINA THREADING
- HIRA SPA AND SALON
- J&L BEAUTY SALON
- LA QUEEN NAILS
- LAURA'S BEAUTY SALON
- LONG ISLAND CITY YMCA
- LOTUS NAILS
- MADAGASCAR PET SERVICES
- MARIO'S BARBER SHOP
- MASTER BARBER SHOP & SALON
- NELSON'S BARBER SHOP
- PERMANENT BEAUTY AND SKINCARE
- PETER'S IMPRESSIONS // HAIR BY KIWI
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RESTAURANT FINANCIAL RELIEF

Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY) announced that applications for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund will be opened on Monday, May 3 at 12 pm EST, making billions of dollars in direct aid available to independent restaurants, bars, food trucks, caterers, and others in the food and drink industry who have been impacted by COVID-19. Established under the American Rescue Plan, the Restaurant Revitalization Fund will provide a total of \$28.6 billion in direct relief to restaurants and other hard-hit food establishments.

“After a challenging year for restaurants, the Restaurant Revitalization Fund will provide much needed aid to help New York City food and service industry survive,” said Congresswoman Maloney. “This fund will provide billions in aid to restaurants, food trucks, caterers, and other business owners who have faced incredible challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. These businesses are vital to our City’s culture and economy and I encourage all those who are eligible to register today. Our City wouldn’t be the same without you.”

- Registering for an account in advance at restaurants.sba.gov started last week.
- Reviewing the official guidance, including program guide, frequently asked questions, and application sample.
- Preparing the required documentation.
- Working with a point-of-sale vendor or visiting restaurants.sba.gov to submit an application when the application portal opens. [Note: If an applicant is working with a point-of-sale vendor, they do not need to register beforehand on the site.]

Grants under the Restaurant Revitalization Fund program are tax-free federal grants and do not need to be repaid. They are also more flexible than funds provided by the Paycheck Protection Program, answering a call from restaurant and bar owners for more versatility with relief funds. Restaurants can use this new funding to cover a range of expenses besides payroll, including rent, construction, maintenance and more.

The program makes up to \$5 million in grants available per restaurant location, or \$10 million per restaurant group, based on total loss in revenue between 2019 and 2020. It specifically sets aside \$5 billion for businesses with less than \$500,000 in 2019 annual revenue.

A wide variety of businesses in the food and drink industry are eligible for the program – including food trucks, food stands, breweries and caterers. Businesses can apply for a grant even if they have already received a PPP loan.



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WHY DRUGS AND ALCOHOL WILL NOT HELP YOUR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

by Stan Popovich

Using drugs and alcohol will not take away your problems and fears. In the short run, they might make you feel better, but in the long run these addictions will only make things worse.

As a result, here are eight tips on how to manage your persistent fears and anxieties without using drugs and alcohol.

1. Take it one day at a time: Instead of worrying about how you will get through the rest of the week or month, try to focus on today. Each day can provide us with different opportunities to learn new things and that includes learning how to deal with your issues. In addition, you will not feel overwhelmed with everything if you focus on one thing at a time.

2. Learn how to manage your fearful thoughts: When experiencing a negative thought, read some positive statements and affirmations that will help lift your spirits and make you feel better. Remember that your fearful thoughts may be exaggerated so balance these thoughts with realistic thinking and common sense.

3. Do not do everything all at once: Learn how to break your fears into a series of smaller steps. Completing these smaller tasks one step at a time will make the stress more manageable and increases your chances of success. You will also feel more confident in getting things accomplished rather than worrying about what you need to do.

4. Drugs and alcohol are not the answers to your problems: Getting the help you need and learning how to deal with your situation are the most effective ways in managing your fears, anxieties, and addictions. In time, you will become better able to maintain your mental health.

5. Managing your anxieties will take some hard work: Trying to avoid your addictions will do nothing in getting rid of your fears and anxieties. Sooner or later, you will have to confront your mental health issues. Remember that all you can do is to do your best each day, hope for the best, and take things in stride.

6. Drugs and alcohol can make things difficult: Drugs and alcohol can make your problems even more complicated. Many professionals have said that substance abuse will only add more misery to your situation. Be smart and learn how to cope with your mental health issues the right way.

7. Talk to a former addict: If you think that drugs and alcohol will solve your problems, then try talking to someone who has already been down that road. By talking to a former addict, you will get the truth on how substance abuse can ruin your life.

8. Take advantage of the help that is available around you: If possible, talk to a professional who can help reduce your fears and anxieties. They will be able to provide you with additional advice and insights on how to deal with your current situation. By talking to a professional, a person will be helping themselves in the long run because they will become better able to deal with their problems in the future.

ANY ROOM ON THE BANDWAGON?

by Dr. Sharon M. Cadiz

Despite the fact that there are *major* issues for our Nation to address and problem solve, there is little space left for our attention to these things. Important matters and shared priorities pale by comparison as we hear about the litany of daily reports flashing across our awareness; keeping us plugged in and distracted with information overload. This week's big news is not that President Biden delivered a stirring *call to action* with the goal of urging us toward "rebuilding the Nation," "revitalizing our democracy" and "turning peril into possibility," but instead we are inundated with disclosures and announcements that things are bad and getting worse. If we interpret allegations of sexual misconduct by a Mayoral candidate; reports of large gatherings here and abroad that threaten the prospect of achieving "herd immunity," or jump on the bandwagon of "back to work" discord and deem the uncoupling of members of corporate 'royalty,' as well as a split between Facebook and Apple, as the focus of our attention, we are upsetting our own applegart in a collision of metaphors and current events.

Why aren't we hearing more or doing more about making strides in reclaiming our position as a world power? Why aren't we thinking more about the issues that eighteen year old Greta Thunberg is passionate about such as deforestation and the rising sea level due to climate change? Why are we buzzing about talk show hosts and showing images of mask-less revelers celebrating the rites of Spring while more children and other vul-

nerable populations take their last breath? I am all for looking at the bright side and understand the desire to emerge from the clutches of COVID to enjoy the moment; however, I believe that we may be sanctioning a longer and more devastating confinement, if we don't focus on the proactive ways to sustain our progress and activate plans with cautious optimism instead of reckless abandon. Why aren't we asking ourselves about the impact of the pandemic on the homeless, mentally ill, veterans and children who are among the poorest in our society? Instead, many of us look away in the direction of sensational headlines and gossip that demand less thinking and doing.

This week, I hope to squeeze into a seat on the bandwagon to highlight how our collective failure to respond to the census in favor of other matters has cost New York a Congressional seat; being merely "89 people short on Census" according to a New York Times headline. A consequence of this failure is reported in the Wall Street Journal saying that "the state's delegation will decrease by a seat," meaning that our representation in the U.S. Congress has decreased. President Biden's stated desire for unity, solidarity, equality, and social justice was met with some sour faces in the chamber where he gave his address, just months after a brutal insurrection in the same space. It seemed too easy to nap or turn away from his proposals for job creation; and a push to establish retraining opportunities for Americans who have been jobless and displaced by industries that have taken their jobs abroad

while evading their taxpaying responsibility; securing their profits in other countries and; subsequently, contributing to a disappearing middle class and a situation that has the rest of us shouldering the increasing tax burden. Dismissing his remarks in favor of reporting the next scandal; or talking among ourselves about "other groups," and lamenting the number of horrifying violent crimes or effects of devastating storms and resulting damage, trivializes our collective survival and amounts to rearranging chairs on the Titanic. If you "Google" poet Amanda Gorman, as I did, like me you may find an audio version of her poem: "The Hill We Climb" selling for \$2.80 right next to a copy of "The Beautiful Poetry of Donald Trump" selling for \$13.39. Perhaps, like me you may begin to see what is painfully clear about our current reality. When I watch a PBS special about environmental activist Greta Thunberg and hear her say that her family received death threats because of her efforts to send an urgent message about climate change, I get a clear understanding of how we seem to have lost perspective. When the absence of *term limits* anoints certain politicians with the inalienable right to serve in office for decades; focused on raising money for reelection to the neglect of their constituents along with their duty-bound obligation to respect the rule of law and the Constitution, we might realize that something is amiss. I know that we *all* make ridiculous trade-offs, like trading my glasses for shades and in the process misplacing my glasses. Swapping out my glasses that are transitional and ca-

pable of being shades makes my decision doubly foolish, but it is what I do when I need a change, like so many others. The need to feel like we have choices and freedom in little things might actually rob us of the more important needs; like the ability to see where we are going. Getting replacement experiences like buying gadgets, rushing to sales, watching reality shows, police dramas, and sitting through advertising for energy drinks, pizza and other fast food with 6-12 commercials for every program break; showing cars and expensive prescription drugs to treat everything from depression to erectile dysfunction and skin rashes, should all convince us all that either we wake up and smell the decaf or we crash the wobbly bandwagon right into the apple cart.

Today, I am dusting off my history books and listening to the birds that thrived when we were on lockdown. They are telling me that there is nothing new under the sun and nature persists and can thrive even if we don't. I look at youngsters and innovators who are finding solutions to our worst nightmares and must turn up the volume and endlessly channel surf or scan obscure headlines to find them busy at work tinkering with ideas and fashioning a future for the majority too busy gulping down great mouthfuls of minutia and maladaptive coping as their futures go up in smoke. I am hopeful and optimistic because there is newness in every sunrise and as someone once said: "The full moon will come again." I presume that means we all get another chance to get it right, even on a bumpy ride on the bandwagon.

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9:00am and 3:00pm

Monday through Friday



“FREE MOVIE NIGHTS AT THE QUEENS DRIVE-IN”

Following last year’s wildly successful inaugural series of free film screenings at the Queens Drive-In sponsored by the Queens Borough President’s Office, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. announced today that “Free Movie Nights at the Queens Drive-In” will return to the grounds of the New York Hall of Science for a second consecutive year.

“We’re not out of the woods when it comes to COVID-19 just yet, but that doesn’t mean we can’t safely enjoy evenings in Flushing Meadows Corona Park with our family, friends and neighbors. To that end, it is our honor to bring ‘Free Movie Nights at the Queens Drive-In’ back for a second year,” said Borough President RICHARDS. “From kids flicks to cinematic classics, there is something for every family to enjoy on the big screen this spring.”

The full “Free Movie Nights at the Queens Drive-In” series includes a dynamic slate of dramas, comedies and kid-friendly animated films — including an Academy Award winner for Best Picture — for all borough families to enjoy. The series is presented in proud partnership with Rooftop Films, the New York Hall of Science (NYSCI), Museum of the Moving Image, the Queens Night Market, NYC Parks and the New York City Comptroller.

Social distancing will be strictly enforced, and neither guests arriving on foot nor those who have not pre-registered will be admitted. Space is limited with a capacity of approximately 200 vehicles. Pre-registration is required for each screening and opens up two weeks prior to each showing via www.queensdrivein.com

A drive-in with a purpose to give back to Queens, located in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Nightly film screenings Wednesday – Sunday. www.queensdrivein.com. Upon registration, guests will receive a confirmation, which must be presented via printed copy or mobile device upon arrival.

The full “Free Movie Nights at the Queens Drive-In” series is as follows. Dates are subject to change:

- **Wednesday, May 19: “Inside Out” (2015)**
- **Wednesday, May 26: “Moonlight” (2016)***
- **Wednesday, June 16: “Coming to America” (1988)***
- **Thursday, June 24: “Monsoon Wedding” (2001)***
- **Date TBA: “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse” (2018)**

**Film includes sexual content and/or violence*

The June 24 screening of “Monsoon Wedding” will be hosted in partnership with Capital One City Parks Foundation SummerStage and feature a live musical performance by acclaimed Indian-born, Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Falu.

The series of six films comes one month after Borough President Richards sponsored the April 13 showing of critically acclaimed feature “Minari” — a semi-autobiographical film based on the upbringing of the film’s director, Lee Isaac Chung. The film was nominated for six honors at last week’s Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director (Chung) and Best Actor (Steven Yeun), with Youn Yuh-jung winning for Best Supporting Actress — the first South Korean artist to win an Academy Award for acting.

Part of a larger, ongoing film festival at the Queens Drive-In, the first three dates of the free film series — featuring a 62-foot screen constructed in the NYSCI parking lot — will open to pre-registered attendees at 7:30PM, one hour before the film screenings begin at 8:30PM. For the showings of “Coming to America” and “Monsoon Wedding,” gates will open at 8PM with the film beginning at 9PM. Exact timing is subject to change, and the film screenings are held rain or shine, except in the event of severe weather.

Food and beverages will be available for contactless purchase through featured vendors that have previously participated in the seasonal Queens Night Market, normally held annually at the NYSCI parking lot in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Concessions can be purchased via contactless ordering during pre-show programming or via stadium-style vendors walking the premises before the main feature.

Providing financial support for “Free Wednesday Movie Nights at the Queens Drive-In” is the non-profit Flushing Meadows Corona Park Improvement Fund, which is jointly overseen by Borough President Richards, NYC Parks and the New York City Comptroller.



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GOOD OLD-FASHIONED NEIGHBORS

by Patricia Dorfman



**(NO HALF &
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As most are aware, the organizations that worked to collect funds for Skillman and 43rd Avenues holiday lights the past two years, generously supported by businesses, decided instead to collect donations for four food pantries, divided equally. Due to Covid-19, there were fewer on the street to enjoy a lighting festival. The pandemic also meant fewer in-person solicitations, and business and residents had reduced discretionary income. All who donated are extremely generous people! The final tally was \$16,462.61, and checks for \$4,115.65 were given to Sonia Moncayo of Mosaic Covenant Church food Pantry, Richard O'Connor of St. Raphael's Food Pantry, Norberto Soldana of St. Teresa's Food Pantry, and to Judith Zangwill of Sunnyside Community Services Food Pantry, in care of Monica Guzman and Michelle Bova. Those who have been long supported community initiatives did so again, and that included Tony & Leena Tang of the UPS Store, Amin Siad of Fresh 'n' Save Supermarkets, Anthony Lodati and Janet Rios of Lowery Wine & Liquors, Pastor Brian P. Dowd of Queen of Angels Roman Catholic Church, and Maureen

Lynch of Edward D. Lynch Funeral Home, Sofia Landon Geier of Unity Stages, Henri and Nicole Billharz of Billharz Plumbing, Hiroshi Hatazaki of Ariyoshi Japanese Restaurant, Keri Kerim of Dazies, and Juan Arache of the Sugar Room. Sherilyn Sabba of the Woodside Herald provided crucial support. Leo J. Kim surprised all with his exceedingly generous gift, as did Sheena Vo, who also sent a kind note. Also including a cheerful message were Ralph, Kelley, and Lucy Parella who donated in honor of Maryann and William Meyer, frequent Sunnyside visitors. Skillman and nearby businesses Amy FitzGerald of Welcome Home Real Estate, Optometrist Dr. Christa Cavallaro of C Cleary, Nilo De La Torre of Century 21 Sunny Gardens Realty, Dorothy Raymond Morehead Real Estate, Rigoberto Cardoso of Pronto Car Service, Katie Kaloutis, and Rebecca Vickers of Bliss Vintage & Handmade. Sean A. Murphy was extremely giving, as was Sunita Stevens Meyers. Artists Gregory Amend, George Moeser, and Ellen Mandelbaum sent generous donations.

Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan donated as always. Candidates for District 26

office who always faithfully support local initiatives, Denise Keehan-Smith, and Brent O'Leary, did so once again. Individuals like past Chamber president Rebecca Barker generously donated, as did Lauren J. Springer of Community Board 2, as well as Brooke Shane, Katherine M. Skopkowski, Janet Roberts and Katie Sullivan. Also sending in funds were Thomas J. Mituzas and Richard Drake. Annie Frisbee, Juliet J. Chu, Melissa Orlando of Access Queens, and Katie Sullivan sent donations. Max Frankston and Laurie Samuels, who do not live in the area, took time to donate. It was rewarding to get support from Howard Brickman, Rejane Carroll, Prof. Hayes Peter Mauro, Yekaterina Dilanjan, Chamber Chairman of the Board Manny Gomez, and Sarah Kearns. We are also grateful to Victoria Sena, Shahdin Rahman, Naomi Lehman, Peter Scarlato, Catherine Wing, Ana Espinosa, and William Erickson. Mimar Sinan Turkish Mosque donated. Many residents and businesses give directly to the pantries as wonderful neighbors, including Fresh 'n' Save, the Skillman, and Senso Unico. Thank you to Vanessa Ceballos, Sunnyside Chamber president, for permitting the Chamber to act as the fund bank, and Deborah Farley who did the book-keeping. Money is not the only need necessary to feed our neighbors, as there is heavy lifting needed to unload the trucks, and patience and good will to distribute the food. Volunteers show up faithfully, or there could be no pantries.

Pantry head at St. Raphael's Richie O'Connor, a full-time volunteer, thanks, among many, Pat Coyle, Kristin Donovan, Gabriel Gonzales, Teresa Shanderson, Dean Cavabai, Manuel Srminajeo, Mary McDonald, Connie Garcia, and Patrick Grogan. O'Connor gives a big shout out to Catholic Charities, which deliver many thou-

sands of dollars' worth of food to the pantry, \$10,000 worth when we visited.

Monica Guzman, Assoc. Exec. Director, on behalf of Exec. Director of Sunnyside Community Services Judy Zangwill, notes that Michelle Bova, Director of Marketing & Outreach personally spearheaded and runs the SCS pantry. Thanks also go to intern volunteers Luz Portilla, Aaliyah Evans, and Toshin Awoleke. Sofia Moncayo, a volunteer in charge of the Mosaic Pantry, is submitting a list we will share next week in a letter to the Editor. Kudos also to the faithful volunteers at the busy St. Teresa's Church, run by Norberto Soldana whose names will also submit next week in the letter.

If you donated via the Food Fund, but are not mentioned here, please let us know at WoodsideSunnysideCouncil@gmail.com. A cash donation of \$5 came in anonymously last week, so we are saving it until enough can be garnered to distribute again. If you wish to donate directly to the pantry of your choice, please do so. All organizations are official charities, so donations are tax deductible. The lines are not getting any shorter at any of the pantries, and many line up hours in advance. The pantries all serve all who attend as long as food lasts.

Address for direct donations (be sure to write "Food Pantry" on check) are:

- Attn: Richard O'Connor "St. Raphael's Church," 35-20 Greenpoint Ave., LIC, NY 11101
- Attn: Monica Guzman, "Sunnyside Community Services," 43-31 39th Ave., Sunnyside, NY 11104

- Attn: Norberto Soldana, "St. Teresa's Church," 50-2045th St., Woodside, NY 11377

- Attn: Sofia Moncayo, "Mosaic Covenant Church," 46-01 43rd Ave., Sunnyside, NY 11104

~SEE PAGE 8 FOR PHOTOS~

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Health and Hospitals hiring 500 non-clerical staff to help with patient transport, clerical work and cleaning. No medical background is required and hiring will be expanded to thousands soon. Please visit www.nyc.gov/getnetwork for more information and to apply.

NYC.GOV FOOD ASSISTANCE

Visit www.NYC.gov/GetFood for COVID-19 food assistance resources. Visit www.FoodHealrNYC to find a location near your home distributing meals for free, including food pantries and Grab & Go meals at NYC Schools, available for all children or adults in need.

COVID BURIAL ASSISTANCE

The Human Resources Administration will provide financial assistance to individuals in need of assistance to meet funeral expenses. www1.nyc.gov/HRA

SUNNYSIDE & WOODSIDE MUTUAL AID FOOD PANTRIES
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Rain or Shine! Please spread the word!
LOTS OF NUTRITIOUS PRODUCE!
- 46th Street-Bliss station, - 61st Street station
- Woodside Houses (49th & Broadway)

GOVERNOR SIGNS NY HERO ACT INTO LAW

Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris and Assembly Member Karines Reyes announced the New York HERO Act (S.1034-B/A.2681-B), a critical bill requiring businesses to have enforceable safety standards to prevent further spread of coronavirus and other airborne diseases, was signed into law by Governor Cuomo.

“Too many workers have already sacrificed their health for our community’s benefit. The New York HERO Act will honor their efforts by giving workers the tools to protect themselves while on the job,” said Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris. “I appreciate the efforts of so many advocates and organizers who made this success possible.”

“I am honored to have sponsored the NY HERO Act that was borne out of my very own experiences serving as a nurse on the frontlines during the peak of the pandemic. It is crucial that workers are able to operate in a safe environment and have the full support of New York State,” said Assembly Member Karines Reyes. “I want to

thank my colleague Senator Mike Gianaris for carrying this bill in the Senate and the countless advocacy groups that have relentlessly fought to get this vital legislation signed into law. New York now has the tools it needs to ensure that it can get on the safest path to recovery.”

The NY HERO Act, or the New York Health and Essential Rights Act, requires the Departments of Labor and Health to implement enforceable minimum standards for workplace safety. The regulations must include protocols on testing, PPE, social distancing, hand hygiene, disinfection, and engineering controls. Workers would also be given a direct role in monitoring and reporting violations through workplace health and safety committees and employees would be protected from retaliation for utilizing their rights under the law.

The NY HERO Act is supported by more than 100 labor, community, and safety organizations, including the AFL-CIO. The legislation passed the Senate Labor committee in January.

SRC PODCAST

The Divine Spark

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- Spotify
- Stitcher
- Buzzsprout
- Podcast Addict
- Podchaser
- Deezer
- Listen Notes
- COMING SOON
- Google Podcast
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Sunnyside & East River Kiwanis Kiwanis Clubs



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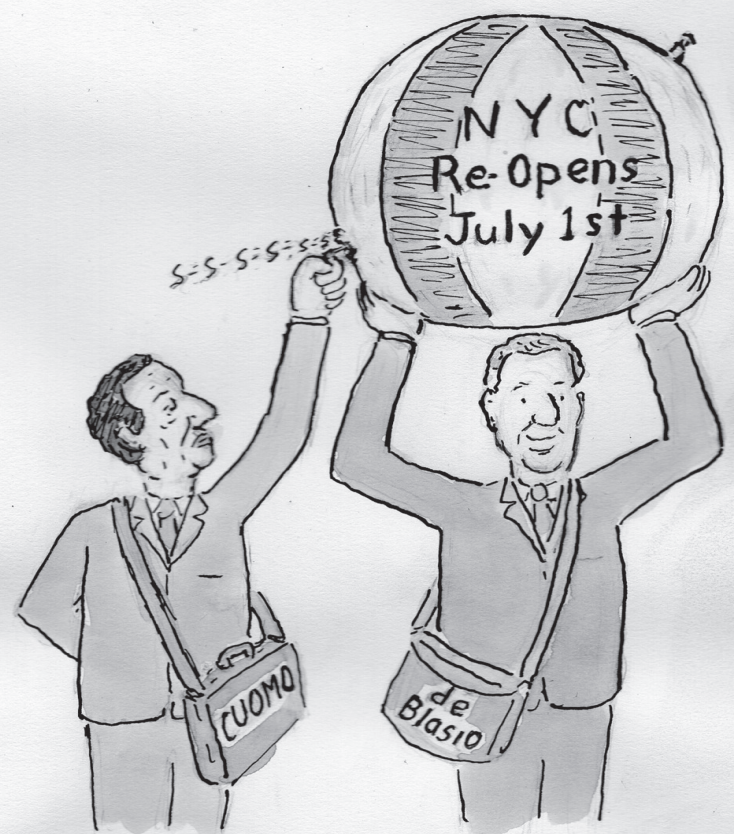
Items We Need

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Mouthwash
- Deodorant (men's & women's)
- feminine hygiene products
- body lotion
- face masks
- hand sanitizer
- comb
- brush
- hand towel

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S. Meadows

Senator Addabbo's Spring Food Drive

To benefit the Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Grace and St. Camillus food pantries

Non-perishable items that are needed include:
**Canned vegetables and fruit;
 Cereals; Crackers and snacks;
 Pasta and rice; Soups, stews and chili; Cooking oil; and Dried herbs and spices.**

Drop off locations are:
 Addabbo's Middle Village Office at 66-85 73rd Place
 Addabbo's Howard Beach Office at 159-53 102nd Street
 Last Stop Gourmet Shop, located at 222 Beach 116th Street

Food will be collected until May 31st and will be delivered to each food pantry.

All COVID-19 safety measures will be enforced when entering Addabbo's offices.

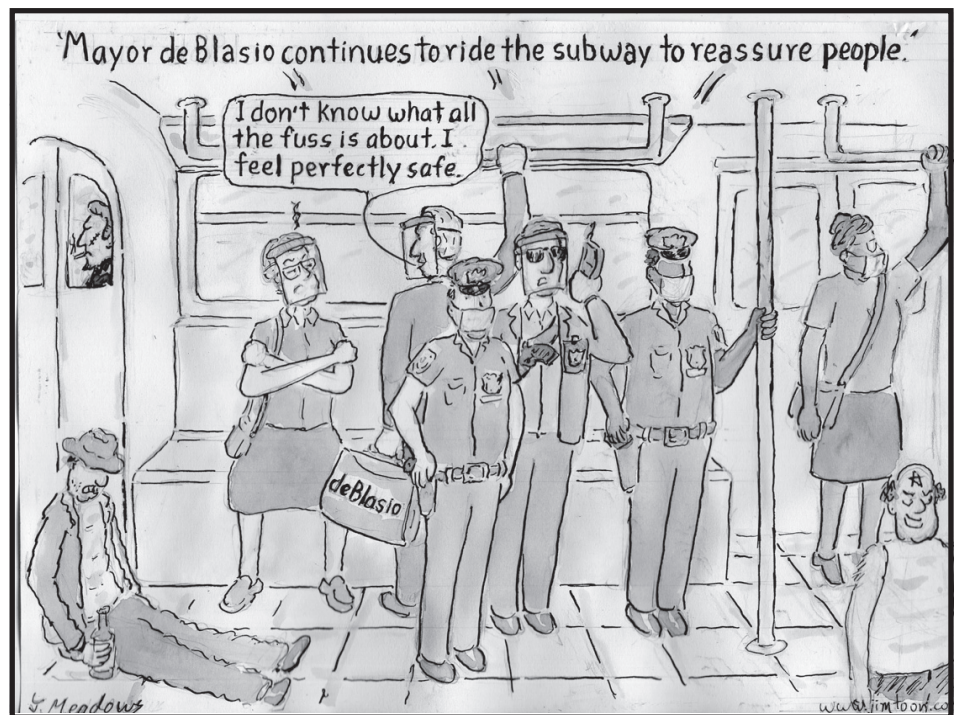
Walk-up COVID-19 Vaccinations for New Yorkers Age 75 and Over Plus One Eligible Escort!

Check eligibility at nyc.gov/covidvaccinedistribution or call 877-829-4692.

LONG ISLAND CITY SITE:
 5-17 46th Rd, Queens
 Thursday-Sunday 12pm-4pm

<https://on.nyc.gov/3s9K3s7>

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WINNERS OF QEDC'S STARTUP! CONTEST

Community Category

WINNER

ENTREPRENEUR OF HOUSE OF PLAYFUL SOUL

Thuy Petersen

Tech Category

WINNER

FOUNDER OF SHE DESIGN

Sharae Gibbs

Sustainability Category

WINNER

CO-FOUNDERS OF TERRART NYC

*Charly Uzcatogui
Timothy Chu*

A children's center, a butcher shop, a design firm, and a tech-design agency were the big winners of Queens Economic Development Corporation's annual StartUP! Business Competition last Thursday. Thanks to support from Resorts World Casino New York City and Srivastava Technology Fund, each entity will receive \$10,000 to grow their businesses.

Thuy Petersen's House of Playful Soul took top honors in the Community category. The Forest Hills learning and development center provides parents with flexible play,

class, party, and event options for children between the ages of six months and four years.

Jamaica resident **Abou Sow** and **Prince Abou's Butchery** won in the Food category. The online retailer specializes in local Halal meats sourced from small, family-run farms just a few hours from New York City. Sow slaughters, butchers, and delivers meat to customers within a week of ordering to ensure that the products are fresh.

Terrart NYC, which is owned by Fresh Meadows residents **Charly Uzcatogui** and **Tim Chu**, emerged victorious in the

Sustainability category. They devise beautiful, natural floral arrangements inside terrariums for commercial, office, and residential spaces. Their collection features recycled containers such as liquor bottles, light bulbs, and jars.

She Designs Creative Agency, which is led by **Sharae Gibbs** of St. Albans, triumphed in the Tech category. The all-female company offers UI and UX online courses, mentorship, and coaching to women of color and non-binary people.

Now in its 15th year, StartUP! is a four-

month instruction course and competition for Queens-based startup founders and small business entrepreneurs who are in the early stages of development. After attending at least four workshops on such topics as Branding and Financial Forecasting Marketing, contestants submitted their applications to a panel of judges consisting of local entrepreneurship and commerce experts. They selected 12 finalists (three in each category) from a pool of almost 50 teams to enter a final round where a second panel picked one winner from each of the four categories.

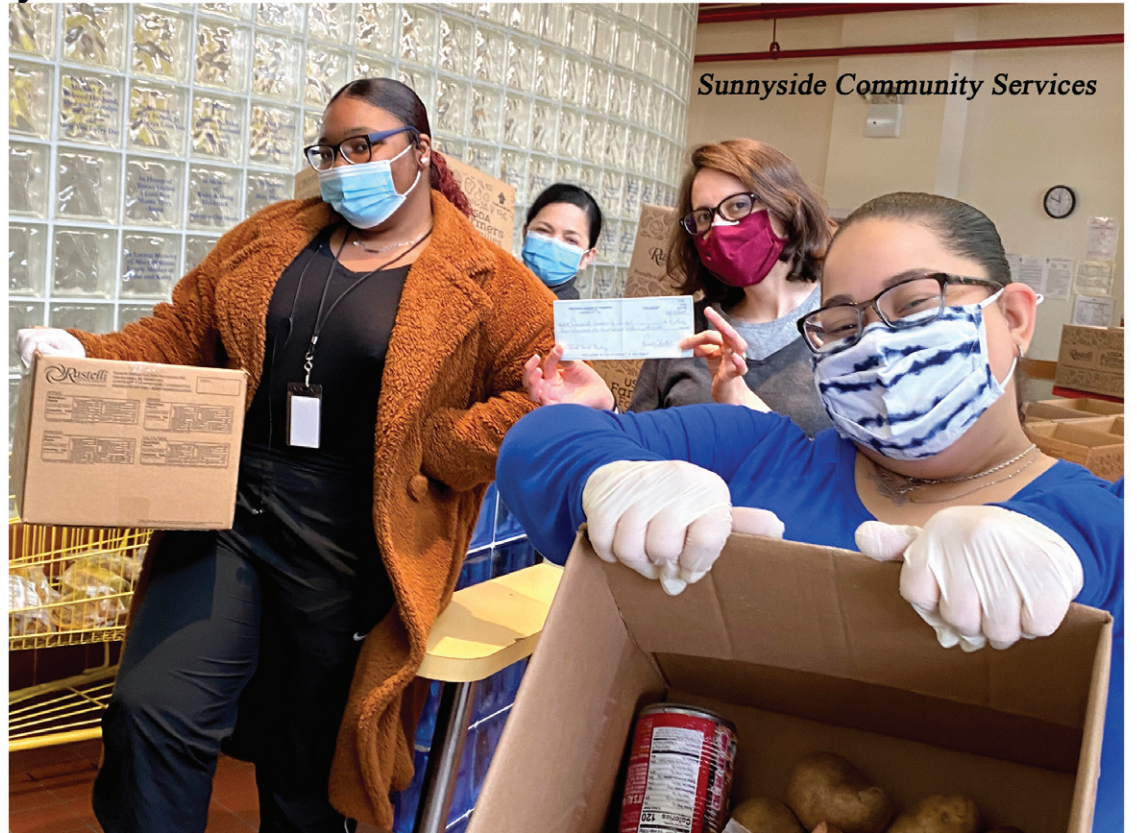
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GOOD OLD-FASHIONED NEIGHBORS

by Patricia Dorfman



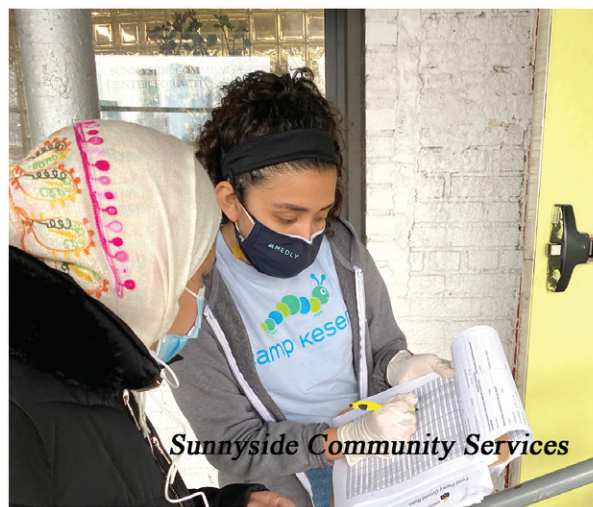
Nilo DeLaToree



Sunnyside Community Services



Amin Siad



Sunnyside Community Services



Monica and Michelle SCS



St. Teresa's Food Pantry



St. Teresa's Food Pantry



Mosaic



St. Raphael's Food Pantry



Volunteers at Mosaic Church Food Pantry, with Chamber President Vanessa Ceballos at right.